

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Eric Hansen et al.

Application No.: NEW

Filed: HEREWITH

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
SINGLE SUBSTRATE PROCESSING
USING MEGASONIC-ASSISTED
DRYING (AS AMENDED)

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT**

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San Francisco, CA 94105
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M/S PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant(s) submit(s) herewith patents, publications or other information [attached hereto and listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (modified)] of which they are aware, which they believe(s) may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

This Information Disclosure Statement:

- (a) ☒ accompanies the new patent application submitted herewith. 37 CFR § 1.97(a).
- (b) ☐ is filed within three months after the filing date of the application or within three months after the date of entry of the national stage of a PCT application as set forth in 37 CFR § 1.491.
- (c) ☐ as far as is known to the undersigned, is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, or before a first office action after filing a Request for Continued Examination under §1.114.
- (d) ☐ is filed after the first office action and more than three months after the application's filing date or PCT national stage date of entry filing but, as far as is known to the undersigned, prior to the mailing date of either a final rejection or a

notice of allowance, whichever occurs first, and is accompanied by either the fee (\$180) set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p) or a certification as specified in 37 CFR § 1.97(e), as checked below.

- (e) ☐ is filed after the mailing date of either a final rejection or a notice of allowance, whichever occurred first, and the Issue Fee has not been paid, and is accompanied by the fee (\$130) set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(i)(1) and a certification as specified in 37 CFR § 1.97(e), as checked below. This document is to be considered as a petition requesting consideration of the information disclosure statement.

[If either of boxes (d) or (e) is checked above, the following "certification" under 37 CFR § 1.97(e) may need to be completed.] The undersigned certifies that:

- (f) ☐ Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication mailed from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- (g) ☐ No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication mailed from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

A list of the patent(s) or publication(s) is set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449 (Modified).

A copy of the items on PTO-1449 (Modified) is supplied herewith, except as noted below.

Those patent(s) or publication(s) which are marked with an asterisk (*) in the attached form PTO-1449 (Modified) are not supplied because they are (a) either U.S. Patents and this an application filed after June 30, 2003, or (b) were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in a prior application no. _____, filed _____ and relied upon in this application for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

A concise explanation of relevance of the items listed on form PTO-1449 (Modified) is:

- (k) ☒ not given
- (l) ☐ given for each listed item

- (m) ☐ given for only non-English language listed item(s) [Required]
- (n) ☐ is in the form of an English language copy of a Search Report from a foreign patent office, issued in a counterpart application, which refers to the relevant portions of the references [copy attached].

The Examiner is reminded that a "concise explanation of the relevance" of the submitted items "may be nothing more than identification of the particular figure or paragraph of the patent or publication which has some relation to the claimed invention," MPEP § 609.

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.98 and MPEP § 609 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

Respectfully submitted,

STALLMAN & POLLOCK LLP

Dated: April 16, 2004

By: Kathleen A. Frost
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Attorneys for Applicant(s)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	Docket Number (Optional) SCP-9201	Application Number NEW
	Applicant(s) Eric Hansen et al.	
	Filing Date HEREWITH	Group Art Unit Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	*AA	5,017,236	05/21/1991	Moxness et al.	134	1	08/21/1989
	*AB	5,090,432	02/25/1992	Bran	134	139	10/16/1990
	*AC	5,464,480	11/07/1995	Matthews	134	1.3	07/16/1993
	*AD	5,601,655	02/11/1997	Bok et al.	134	1	02/14/1995
	*AE	5,896,875	04/27/1999	Yoneda	134	102.3	08/30/1996
	*AF	6,006,765	12/28/1999	Skrovan et al.	134	1.3	11/06/1998
	*AG	6,192,600	02/27/2001	Bergman	34	267	09/09/1999
	*AH	6,240,938	06/05/2001	Oshinowo	134	147	12/06/1996
	*AI	6,273,100	08/14/2001	Andreas et al.	134	1.3	08/27/1998
	*AJ	6,311,702	11/06/2001	Fishkin	134	1.3	11/11/1998
	*AK	6,328,814	12/11/2001	Fishkin et al.	134	30	03/26/1999

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	AL	2000-21840	01/21/2000	Japan	H01L	21/304	X	
	*AM	WO 00/21692	04/20/2000	PCT	B08B	3/12		
	*AN	EP 1 168 422	06/26/2001	EPC	H01L	21/00		

OTHER DOCUMENTS

(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner	Date Considered
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	